

POINT OF VIEW PAPER

Video: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesonthepize/resources/vid/03_video_schools_qt.html

Watch the video and read the passage below. Explain how the point of view of the character that makes the observation influences the description. How would Elizabeth Eckford have written this passage? How would a person in the mob have written this passage? Choose either to rewrite the passage in Elizabeth Eckford, Jefferson Thomas, or a member of the mob's voice.

Passage from *Fire From the Rock*:

"It was clear Elizabeth was frustrated--she tried several times to get past the guards. The last time she tried, they pointed their bayonets at her.

"They're pointing guns at her! Are they going to shoot a teenager on live television?"

"Oh, my Lord," Aunt Bessie mumbled, her eyes fixed on the television screen.

Sylvia grabbed her aunt's hand. "If that was me, I'd be so scared I'd be wetting my pants! I know she's terrified!"

Elizabeth turned then, glanced around to see what she should do, or to look for help perhaps, and all that stood in front of her was a sea of angry white faces. She walked slowly down the steps, and as she got closer to what was now a mob, they grew fiercer.

Sylvia started to cry as she watched. "Oh, Aunt Bessie, a lady is spitting on her."

"She's all alone," Aunt Bessie moaned.

"They're calling her names! How can grownups do that to a kid?" Tears streamed down Sylvia's face.

Elizabeth walked slowly and silently. It was unbelievable.